

South Dakota Fusion Center (SDFC)

October 15–16, 2012

MindLeapTM Critical Thinking Technical Assistance Seminar

The South Dakota Fusion Center (SDFC) is hosting the MindLeap Critical Thinking Technical Assistance Seminar for intelligence analysts. The seminar is offered by the U.S. Department of Homeland Security (DHS), in partnership with the Bureau of Justice Assistance (BJA) and in coordination with the Michigan State University, School of Criminal Justice's Intelligence Program.

This service teaches analysts how to think critically and has been designed specifically for intelligence analysts. The content is based on the integration of research across many disciplines, including but not limited to strategic studies, international security, social science, and strategic and tactical intelligence analysis.

Program Format

This service is scheduled for October 15–16, 2012, from 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m., with one hour for lunch.

Monday, October 15, 2012

1. The Basis of Instinctive Thinking
2. Seeing Is Believing
3. A Mind of Its Own
4. Disciplined Instinctive Thinking

Tuesday, October 16, 2012

1. Review of Day 1
2. The 6-Step Critical Thinking Process
3. Applying Ingenious Thinking
4. Developing Your Critical Thinking

Instructor/Facilitator

The facilitator and instructor of the technical assistance service is Michael Rip, M.Sc., Ph.D. Dr. Rip holds the following positions at Michigan State University: Founding Director, Program in Public Health, College of Human Medicine; Adjunct Professor, Intelligence Program, School of Criminal Justice; and Assistant Professor, Department of Family Medicine, College of Human Medicine.

Technical Assistance Service Details

The following key topics, among many others, are covered during the service:

- ◀ How beliefs and preconceived explanations influence our observations and insights.
- ◀ Why stories trump statistics and the seduction of generalizations and simplifications.
- ◀ The human brain as an “associative engine” and our tendency to jump to conclusions and incorrect solutions.
- ◀ The limits of our observation and memory and why a mental picture is not worth 1,000 words.
- ◀ The negative consequences of faulty reasoning, especially when the risks are high.
- ◀ Faults with traditional “brainstorming” and how to develop a productive brainstorming process.

Benefits for Participants

- ◀ A research-based model of effective reasoning and a toolkit of practical critical thinking strategies.
- ◀ Skills that have immediate and lifelong professional application.
- ◀ Organizational benefits, including increased change agility, more effective strategy implementation and improvement initiatives, more efficient use of time and resources, and higher levels of employee engagement and innovation.

Registration

For additional information or to register for the MindLeap Seminar, please contact IO Matthew Speer at matthew.speer@hq.dhs.gov by close of business, Friday, September 21, 2012.

Please note that this service does not replace the knowledge, skills, and tools provided in DHS-sponsored training courses or meet grant requirements for analysts but should be considered as a valuable prerequisite for these training courses (e.g., Critical Thinking and Analytic Methods [CTAM]).

